

**MINUTES OF THE ROSS LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE READING ROOM,  
ROSS ON TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2014 COMMENCING AT 3.00 PM**

**1 ATTENDANCE**

Mrs F Doe (Chair), Mrs J Bennett, Mr A Cameron, Mrs R Quill, Mr T Jacobson, Cr A Calvert, Miss M Bricknell (Acting General Manager), Miss A Mason (Secretary), Constable P Littlejohn (until 3:20pm)

**2 APOLOGIES**

Mr K Draper, Ms G Jenkinson

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

*Mrs J Bennett/Mr A Cameron*

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on Tuesday, 18 March 2014, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

*Carried*

**4 DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 5, S48A – S56, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member:

- a) has an interest; or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment.

*\* It should be noted that any person declaring an interest is required to notify the general manager, in writing, of the details of any interest declared within 7 days of the declaration.*

**5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**i) Poaching and Spotlighting in Ross District**

Constable Paul Littlejohn attended from Tasmanian Police in response to the Committee's invitation to discuss spotlighting and poaching in the Ross area, in particular Tooms Lake Road.

Mr A Cameron raised that there have been several reports and complaints by property owners that their fences are being cut and people are trespassing on their land and shooting.

Constable Littlejohn advised that he was aware that this was occurring, however, Police were not receiving complaints for investigation. Constable Littlejohn stressed that Police

cannot act on anything unless they receive a complaint. Further to that, Police cannot charge anyone unless they have evidence and witnesses. With the few reports that have been received by Police, witnesses have failed to provide statutory declarations to support the complaint.

Constable Littlejohn advised there have been 3 operations in the last month with 0 result.

Mr A Cameron enquired as to what can be done to assist the Police, or enable more Police available to cover the area. Constable Littlejohn advised that this issue has been raised with the Police Commissioner and additional officers are being directed to these areas.

Raised and noted that there is a push for more Police in the area. And, every issue must be reported and reported in detail to assist Police to action.

## **ii) Northern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2007-2017: Structure Planning & Sustainability items**

Council's Strategic Plan 2007—2017 recommends that under Structured Planning and Sustainability, Local District Committees are to be provided with briefing notes regarding strategic planning.

Council's Planning & Development department has provided the attached briefing notes for review in respect to the following items:

- The Northern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2013
- The greater Launceston Plan
- Powranna Road Rural Processing Centre
- Business confidence in Northern Midlands.

### **Action**

*Noted by Committee, no further action.*

## **iii) 2014/2015 Budget**

The following to be considered during budget discussions and considered by the Committee:

- Drill Hall parking  
The Committee discussed the roadside area outside of the Drill Hall that is regularly parked on, thus killing the grass and causing erosion. Mrs F Doe provided information in respect to a number of turf reinforcement options available that would allow cars to park on the verge area whilst maintaining the grass.  
The Committee also noted that the same problem is occurring with the grass outside of the café.
- New Toilets - that Council prepare plans for new toilets at the town hall, which are in keeping with the heritage design, to be built utilizing funds received from the sale of property in Ross.  
The Committee discussed the need for the upgrade of the toilets. It was noted that the cleaner of the toilets had requested they be painted. It is unclear whether the toilets require full refurbishment or painting.  
It was noted by the Committee that the proceeds from the sale of the Former Ross

School would be applied back into the community, and priority would be given to upgrading of the toilets.

**Action**

*Drill Hall Parking – show turf reinforcement system to Works and Infrastructure Department for investigation and matter to be discussed when Councilors attend Ross on annual bus tour.*

*Public Toilets – it was agreed that Karen (cleaner) be invited to next meeting and an inspection of the toilets be conducted to determine whether full refurbishment required, or, whether painting is sufficient.*

**iv) Wifi for Ross**

The Chair to discuss with the Wool Centre, and thereafter with Tourism Northern Tasmania the possibility of establishing a Wifi hotspot in Ross, possibly in the vicinity of the town hall.

Consider and discuss.

**Action**

*On hold until next meeting.*

**v) Outdoor Gym Equipment**

At the 25 February meeting, discussion took place in regard to the possible installation of outdoor gym equipment at Ross Sports Ground (similar to that at Campbell Town).

The Committee agreed that

- the Chair liaise with the Chair of the Ross Sports Club;
- notice to be issued re the project and placed in the Post Office with an information/suggestion box – to engage community and ascertain required equipment;
- in due course, the Chair to liaise with Ms Green re finalisation and submission of the application for the TCF funding.

Mrs Doe to report on discussion with Chair of Ross Sports Club.

Matter has not progressed to date.

**Action**

*Mrs Doe to provide report for discussion at next meeting.*

**vi) Development of Walkways in Ross**

Previously, Mr Chellis advised that the area at the top of the sharp embankment in the proximity of the reservoir had been made safe and that a contractor would be engaged to install a gate and fence across the High Street access.

Update on installation of gate and fence.

No update at this stage. Committee noted box thorn has been sprayed.

**Action**

## vii) Old School at Ross

Update to be provided as to the progress of surveyors at the Old School.

The Committee noted the Old School land has been subdivided, and titles should be received soon. Council is currently seeking expressions of interest for marketing proposals for the Old School. Once these are received the Old School will be advertised for sale. It was noted there is presently some interest in the purchase of the property.

### **Action**

## 6 MATTERS PENDING

### i) Customer Requests/Works

<b>Request</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action by</b>
Plant poplar trees in the existing guards on private property (western side of the road, at southern entrance).	To be planted when time permits. Suggested that the water line installed to existing trees be extended to new plantings. Mrs Does & Mr Chellis to liaise re purchase/planting of new trees. <i>Ongoing</i>	Mrs Doe & Mr Chellis
Pavers—section of the nature strip outside the Ross General Store.	To be installed when time permits (2013/14 budget). <i>Councillors will look at on the Bus Tour</i>	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Maintenance of town cannon.	Small amount of rust, to be pursued by the RSL. <i>Peter Jackson has offered to spray and paint. Ongoing.</i>	RSL
Maintenance required for seat in High Street, near intersection of High & Church Streets (all slats broken)	Customer request issued. Seat not repaired despite showing as complete. Further customer request issued. <i>Seat has been removed, customer request to be issued for return of seat.</i>	Works & Infrastructure Department.
Weed at Ross Sewerage Lagoon.	Letter sent to TasWater re Cumbungi Weed at the lagoon. No response received. <i>Follow up letter to be issued.</i>	TasWater
Speed limit – changed signage on both entrances/exits to Ross – now 100km/h, request that consideration be given to changing to 80km/h.	Customer request issued. Listed as item in Agenda for April <b>Traffic Management Meeting</b> .	Traffic Management Committee

Request	Status	Action by
	<i>Further update to be provided from outcome of Traffic Management Committee Meeting</i>	
Signage – Antique shop signage which had been affixed to trees in Church Street and nursery sandwich board sign.	Customer request issued. Not on display when inspected by Compliance Officer. Amendment to use of property sought. <i>Send further customer request to check as signs still being erected.</i>	Compliance Officer
Road Repairs – Bitumen breaking up on the northern entrance/exit to Ross (town side).	Customer request issued. Road repaired. Matter complete.	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Tree that recently had dangerous limb removed by Council staff needs attention at the exercise site.	Customer request issued.	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Bridge Path – noted that the bitumen should not abut the sandstone bridge as damage is being caused.	Letter sent to DIER. Response received from DIER and referred to Mrs J Bennett. <i>Mrs J Bennett received a call from DIER (Andrew Hargraves) who will speak to Brad Williams about the issue and hopefully it will be addressed. Further report to be provided.</i>	J Bennett to provide update.
Recent dig out, gravel and bitumen patch on High Street not adequate.	Customer request issued. Matter complete 31/3/2014.	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Stage curtains at town hall need attention; noted that repairs have been undertaken previously, however, repairs have not previously been effective and the repairs have failed/fallen apart within days. Needs attention to faulty tracks, tears, hems etc. Noted that the hanging mechanism requires repair/replacement, not the curtains.	Matter to be considered in Budget process. <i>Russell from Curtains &amp; Blinds will inspect the curtains after Easter and provide a quote. This is to be forwarded to Maree Bricknell.</i>	Corporate Services Manager
Management of fire hazards.	On hold until October 2014.	
Wood Carving.	On hold.	
Light on Uniting Church needs repair.	Customer request issued.	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Trees overhanging public property, especially on Tooms Lake Road.	Customer request issued.	Works & Infrastructure Dept.
Drop offs on Tooms Lake Road in vicinity of	Customer request issued.	Works &

Request	Status	Action by
railway line.	Programmed for 7 April 2014. Complete.	Infrastructure Department
14 Park Street, Ross – relocation of house	House scheduled to be moved by week ending 25 April 2014. If not moved by this time, planning department will follow up. Note: was scheduled to be moved on 7 April 2014 however, issues with truck prevented move. <i>Extension for removal granted until mid May.</i>	Planning & Development

## **7 NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs F Doe:

- Received a report that the stone wall at the Anglican Cemetery in Park Street has fallen in. This was discussed by the Committee and determined this was an issue for the Anglican Church.

*Mr A Cameron will speak to caretaker/minister.*

- Trees – an update was requested as to the works schedule for the trees in Ross to be trimmed.
- Cars parking overnight on the grass at Upper Church Street.

*Mrs F Doe to speak with land owners to identify and hopefully rectify the issue.*

Mr A Cameron:

- Progress Association Committee – it was discussed that Mrs Quinn attends the Progress Association Committee Meetings regularly and agreed that there should be a regular report to the Ross Local District Committee on any issues arising at the Progress Meetings.
- Lawn Mower – it was noted that the person employed to mow the lawns is doing an excellent job however, is getting too close to some trees and damaging them.
- Spraying of Roads – briars, gorse and elms on roadside will need to be sprayed at the appropriate time of year (place on hold until October).
- Mt Morrison – there is a large area of Pattersons Curse at Mt Morrison. It was requested that Council issue a notice in respect to the noxious weed which be copied to David Lane (Northern Weeds Officer).
- There is a car parking consistently on the grassed area on Badajos Street rather than roadside.

Mrs J Bennett

- Mr Helm – 21 Bridge Street – building fence out of pallets, there is an accumulation of rubbish on the fence line and serious vermin issue.

*To be investigated by Council*

- Anna Burbury – a number of old cars are accumulating in yard. Noted by Committee but nothing that can be done.
- Perry Roberts' property between the Catholic Church and the Takeaway – there is tin covering an in ground grate. It has come loose and is bent. It needs to be sealed. Request that Council investigate and issue Notice if appropriate.

*To be investigated by Council*

Mrs R Quill

- Requested water line watering the trees in the nature strip be extended to water the trees that will be planted in the tree guards at the northern end of town.
- Hawthorns on the eastern fence line of the southern entrance to Ross require trimming so that the bridge can be seen.
- Sandstone embankment on the left hand side of the bridge, heading north, requires maintenance.

*Mrs J Bennett will speak with Andrew Hargraves at DIER and report at next meeting.*

- NBN – what is the status? Ross has a wireless connection and will not be disconnected from copper wire anytime in the near future.

## **8 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE**

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 20 May 2014 commencing at 3.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:19pm